



WASHINGTON STATE
GAMBLING COMMISSION

Field Operation Rule Interpretation

Title: WAC 230-40-805- (3) (a) (ii) & WAC 230-40-610 (10) (a) Discontinued Jackpots

Summary: Clarifies fees or buy-ins can't be charged to enter tournaments to disburse jackpot funds from discontinued games.

Text:

When a licensee decides to discontinue a house banked progressive jackpot game or player supported jackpot (PSJ) and disburse the money using a tournament, the licensee is not allowed to charge an entry fee or any buy-ins for the tournament.

Reasoning:

Often when a licensee discontinues a house banked progressive jackpot game or PSJ they still have funds in the jackpot. These are funds which players have a vested interest in and the licensee only serves as the custodian. The commission has allowed the use of tournaments to disburse the funds back to the players. The sole purpose of the tournament is to disburse the left over jackpot funds - not generate additional revenues for the licensee. Licensees have already generated revenues or fees during the operation of the card games that raised the funds in the jackpots.

A buy-in is also not allowed as this would be an additional cost to the player and would increase the jackpot prize not reduce it as is intended.

Approved: 
Cally Cass-Healy, Assistant Director
Washington State Gambling Commission

Date: 1/4/05